Concordia
UNIVERSITY

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY**

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION**
**OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Held on Thursday, October 16, 2003, immediately following the Closed Session, in Room GM 407-1, SGW Campus

Attendance

Present: Mr. Alain Benedetti, *Chair*, Mr. Normand Beauchamp, Dr. Rama Bhat, Dr. Louise Brunette, Me Gerald C. Burke, Mr. Alexander Carpini, Mr. Charles G. Cavell, *Vice-Chair*, Dr. June Chaikelson, Dr. Sally Cole, *Vice-Chair*, Mr. Brian Edwards, Mr. Kamal Fox, Me Pierre Frégeau, *Observer*, Mr. George Hanna, Mrs. Judith Kavanagh, Mr. Peter Kruyt, *Vice-Chair*, Ms. Patricia Lavoie, Ms. Christine Lengvari, Dr. Frederick Lowy, *Rector and Vice-Chancellor*, Mr. Eric Molson, *Chancellor*, Mr. Desmond O'Neill, Mr. John Parisella, Ms. Natalie Pomerleau, Mr. Alex G. Potter, Mrs. Miriam Roland, Mrs. Suzanne Sévigny, Dr. Hani Shennib, Mr. Adam Slater, Mr. Jacques St-Laurent, Mrs. Mackie Vadacchino de Massy, Mrs. Lillian Vineberg

Officers of the University: Prof. Marcel Danis, Mr. Michael Di Grappa, Mr. Larry English

Absent: Dr. Steven Appelbaum, Hon. Baljit Singh Chadha, Mr. Howard Davidson, Me Rita de Santis, Ms. Suzanne Gouin, Mr. Noah Joseph, Dr. Loren Lerner, Mr. Richard Renaud, Mr. Ivan Velan, Mr. Jonathan Wener

Guest: Me Suzanne Birks (Legal Counsel)

1. Call to Order

The Open Session was called to order at 8:10 a.m.

1.1 Chair's remarks

Mr. Benedetti waived his remarks.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Lengvari, Hanna), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

*R2003-80 THAT the Agenda be approved as submitted.*

1.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous meeting (September 18, 2003)

Mr. Slater asked that a modification be brought to the second paragraph on page 7. He also felt that the third paragraph of item 5 on page 3 of the Minutes did not accurately reflect Me de Santis' statement. However, Me de Santis was not present at the meeting.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Cavell, Vineberg), it was unanimously RESOLVED:

R2003-81 *THAT the Minutes of the Open Session of the previous regular meeting of the Board, held September 18, 2003, be approved, subject to the revision on page 7 and subject to verification with Me de Santis of the content of the third paragraph in item 5 on page 3 of the Minutes.*

2. Business arising from the Minutes not included on the Agenda

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

3. Concordia Centraide Campaign

Dr. Lowy stated that Centraide funds more than 325 agencies and projects. He conveyed why Centraide is one of the major organizations he supports and asked Board members who contribute to Centraide to consider making their donation through Concordia.

The Rector invited Campaign Co-Chair Kathleen Perry to briefly address the Board. Ms. Perry outlined the various endeavors and activities that will be held at Concordia and urged Governors to help the University meet this year's increased objective of $140,000.

4. Code of Rights and Responsibilities Review Committee

Mr. Cavell apprised the Board that Me Pierre Frégeau was unable to continue chairing the committee and that Me Rita de Santis had agreed to assume the task. He responded to queries in connection with the membership of the committee and indicated that it would be determined by Me de Santis. Prof. Danis pointed out that the membership had not been established by the Board.

Upon motion duly moved and seconded (Cavell, Slater), it was RESOLVED with one opposed (Slater) and one abstention (Pomerleau):

R2003-82 *WHEREAS, at its meeting of October 21, 2002, the Board established the Code of Rights and Responsibilities Review Committee;*

*WHEREAS the Chair of the Code of Rights and Responsibilities Review Committee, Me Pierre Frégeau, has recently been appointed Acting Director of the University's Advocacy and Support Services;*

*WHEREAS, in light of his new role, Me Frégeau feels that his position as Chair of aforementioned committee will create an appearance of conflict of interest and has asked the Executive Committee that he be replaced;*

*BE IT RESOLVED:*

*THAT, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee, the review of the Code of Rights and Responsibilities be continued under the direction of Me Rita de Santis.*

5. Progress report from the Advisory Search Committee for the Provost

The Chair of the Search Committee, Dr. Lowy, informed the Board that the Committee had begun to consider the 18 applications received. He mentioned that 13 applications had been put aside since the applicants did not meet the criteria. The Ideal Profile Candidate was drafted by the Committee and circulated to the Faculty Councils, Executive Committee and Senate for their comments, the final version of which will be submitted to the Board at its next meeting.

6. Summary of the presentation before the parliamentary committee

The Rector informed the Board of his appearance, together with Dr. Lightstone, Mr. English, Prof. Danis and Mr. Di Grappa, before a parliamentary committee on education on September 30.

Dr. Lowy lead the presentation in Quebec City by stating the following points:

- Concordia has fulfilled its obligations under the Contrat de Performance while successfully pursuing its mission;
- Concordia continues to responsibly manage its finances by maintaining a balanced budget;
- Concordia's struggle to balance the budget comes at the price of having had to sacrifice some important objectives;
- All Quebec universities are under funded compared to universities elsewhere in Canada and the United States;
- Concordia is opposed to differential core funding of research-intensive universities which is being proposed by some universities, given that the higher research overhead costs are covered by the differential payment of indirect costs of research.

A copy of the power point slides presented to the parliamentary commission to illustrate the aforementioned points was shown for the benefits of the members of the Board. Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Secretary-General Marcel Danis, commented about the University's fundraising successes and current initiatives underway,

Dr. Lowy, in the absence of the Provost Jack Lightstone, spoke about Concordia's academic planning process and the fulfillment of the obligations under the Contrat de Performance, Vice-Rector, Services Michael Di Grappa discussed the $350 million building program and Chief Financial Officer Larry English reviewed the University's financial situation.

Following the power point presentation, Dr. Lowy restated his conclusion before the parliamentary committee that adequate funding will allow Concordia to continue to grow and fulfill its mission. However, if funding decreases or remains frozen, Concordia will inevitably have to reconsider many of its plans for academic and physical plant development, and its mission of accessibility will be compromised.

7. Report of the Standing Committees

7.1 Real Estate Planning Committee

Mr. Benedetti mentioned that Mr. Jonathan Wener, the Chair of the Committee, had sent his regrets and had indicated that there was nothing to report.

8. Report of the Rector

Dr. Lowy apprised the Board of an insertion in the October 15 edition of the *Globe and Mail*, entitled "University Report Card". This document ranks universities against each other based on surveys conducted with students across Canada on how they view their own university. The Rector opined that this survey is not reliable because of small sample sizes that are not randomized. For example, only 258 of the over 30,000 Concordia students responded to the survey. Nonetheless, while rankings may or may not be valid, some of the information is of interest.

9. Reports of the Vice-Rectors

9.1 Provost

Dr. Lightstone had conveyed his regrets.

9.2 Vice-Rector, Services

Vice Rector Michael Di Grappa apprised the Board of the merger between the Office of the Registrar and the Office of Student Recruitment into Enrolment Services. An in-depth presentation regarding its mandate will be given to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Di Grappa gave the details regarding an ammonia leak that occurred on Sunday on the outside of the mechanical room servicing the Sports Complex on the Loyola Campus. The cause of the leak was due to a compressor pump failure followed by an error in trying to restart the pump. The Sports Complex and surrounding area were evacuated and three security guards were treated for respiratory problems.

9.3 Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations and Secretary-General

Vice-Rector Danis informed the Board that the first criminal trial regarding the events of September 9 had started but was stopped after 1 ½ days by the Crown Prosecutor who was unhappy with a decision rendered by the judge with respect to the testimony of a witness.

9.4 Chief Financial Officer

Mr. English waived his report.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

11. Any other business

In response to a question from Dr. Chaikelson, Mr. Di Grappa stated that he would look into the closing of the Faculty Club Dining Room on the Loyola Campus.

12. Date of next meeting

Mr. Benedetti reminded Governors to take note that next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 18, 2003, at 5:30 p.m., on the Loyola Campus.**

13. Adjournment

The Open Session adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Danielle Tessier
Secretary of the Board of Governors